GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2735
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
PROCEDURE FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to streamline the procedures for release of funds for Project Tiger and ensure greater accountability in its proper utilization;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the proposed changes would revitalize the system?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAINMEENA)

(a)&(b) A time frame for fund release to States and receipt of their utilization certificates at the Ministry of Environment & Forests has been structured, viz:

(i) Release of first installment of Central Assistance: by four weeks after receipt of Annual Plan of Operations from respective State Governments, which should not be delayed beyond the month of May of the financial year.

(ii) Release of second installment of Central Assistance: by two weeks after receipt of utilization certificate pertaining to previous year from the States, along with 60% utilization report of funding support released as first installment, which should not be delayed beyond the month of December of the financial year. This has the acceptance of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India, which has further directed that the States/UTs shall within a period of 15 days release the Central Assistance to field formations. Apart from obtaining Utilization Certificate from States to ensure accountability that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned, the monitoring and evaluation of Tiger Reserves has also been done by a panel of independent experts, selected as per the normative guidelines of the Ministry.

(c) The above would revitalize the system by making funds available for use in the field, apart from achieving the purpose for which the Central Government gives assistance to States.